



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

FACT SHEET

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Newport Chemical Depot

NECDF Drum Repack Facility

On May 5, 2005, workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) began the successful neutralization of 1,269 tons of chemical agent VX that had been stored at the Newport Chemical Depot since 1968. Chemical stockpile elimination was safely achieved Aug. 8, 2008. The NECDF is currently focused on facility closure operations. During stockpile elimination operations, NECDF generated secondary waste, such as laboratory waste, personal protective equipment, cleaning materials and equipment parts from maintenance and repair activities. During NECDF closure operations, decontamination and demolition activities generate additional secondary waste materials. Ensuring secondary waste is managed in a safe manner and in compliance with all applicable laws is an important part of closure. Some secondary waste is transported to permitted treatment, storage and disposal facilities for further treatment and final disposal. The Drum Repack Facility (DRF) located at NECDF assists employees with their closure mission by providing a containment area to safely pretreat and repackage waste in preparation for transport.

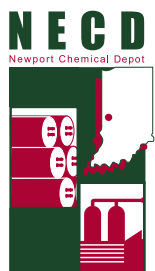
The DRF consists of a separate enclosed repack room, staging area and service area, which are all contained within the Permitted



Thermal Treatment Unit.

Storage Area (PSA) sprung structure. The PSA is a sprung aluminum I-beam structure covered with architectural membrane to effectively seal the interior from outside elements. The filtration system in the DRF provides secondary containment for the remote possibility of vapors leaking from hazardous secondary waste drums. During operations, plant personnel perform rounds to verify and record filter pressures, which also support maintaining the secondary containment.

The most common drum used for waste storage is the 55-gallon drum. Standard 55-



For more information,
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(866) 300-9034 toll-free

or contact the
NECDF Public Affairs Office
(765) 245-4475

or the
CMA Public Affairs Office
(800) 488-0648



Shown is an outside view of the Drum Repack Facility at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility



NECDF Drum Repack Facility (continued)

gallon drums meet the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements. All NECDF 1X waste has been placed into 55-gallon polyethylene drums since January 2007. Prior to this date, waste was often placed into steel drums. These metal drums are not compatible with off-site disposal operations. Therefore, the drum contents must be repacked into polyethylene drums prior to leaving NECDF.

1X secondary waste materials with known or suspected contamination from agent processing operations are double bagged, monitored using a minimum four hour hold time to confirm agent concentrations are below acceptable levels and placed in a 55-gallon drum with liners and absorbent material. Prior to shipment, the drums are placed on pallets of wood slat construction. The pallets are designed to accommodate four 55-gallon drums each. The drums are secured to the pallet with shrink wrap.

The DRF began operations July 2008 and is shut down during the winter months due to cold weather conditions that prevent

monitoring of waste materials at a minimum of 65 degrees. Recently, the NECDF installed a Thermal Treatment Unit in the DRF. The unit consists of a commercially-available truck oven for hot air drying waste materials prior to packaging and shipment off site to a commercial treatment, storage and disposal facility.

The NECDF has partnered with a commercial facility for the safe treatment and final disposal of secondary wastes. Waste is shipped to Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas, for incineration. Veolia is permitted to receive, treat and dispose of chemical agent-contaminated waste.

Employees at NECDF have always operated with the safety and health of the work force, surrounding communities and the environment as the top priority and will continue to operate as such throughout all post-neutralization operations (i.e. processing secondary wastes, closure activities, etc.). The mission will not be complete until all secondary waste materials are properly treated and disposed.